

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

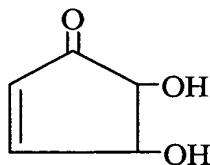
Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) A method for enhancing production of growth factor selected from the group consisting of

hepatocyte growth factor, nerve growth factor, epidermal growth factor, milk-derived growth factor, and insulin-like growth factor, the method comprising

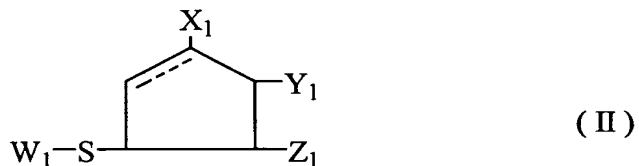
administering a composition containing, as an active ingredient, a compound selected from the group consisting of 4,5-dihydroxy-2-cyclopenten-1-one of formula (I):



(I)

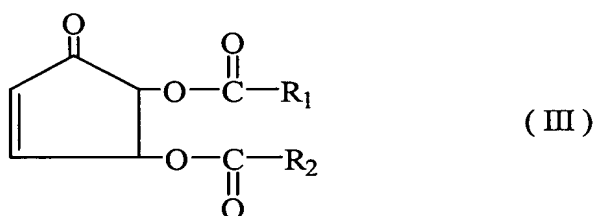
4-hydroxy-2-cyclopenten-1-one;

a compound of formula (II):



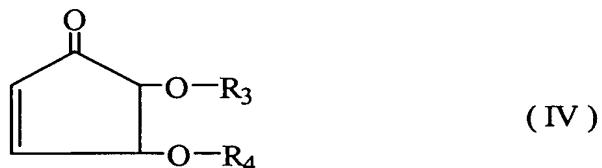
wherein a bond in the five-membered ring represented by a broken line means that the five-membered ring may be either a cyclopentene ring having a double bond or a saturated cyclopentane ring; in the case of a cyclopentene ring, X<sub>1</sub> is OH, Y<sub>1</sub> is =O and Z<sub>1</sub> is H; on the other hand, in the case of a cyclopentane ring, X<sub>1</sub> is =O, Y<sub>1</sub> is OH and Z<sub>1</sub> is OH; W<sub>1</sub> is a residue in which a SH group is removed from cysteine or a peptide containing cysteine;

a compound of formula (III):



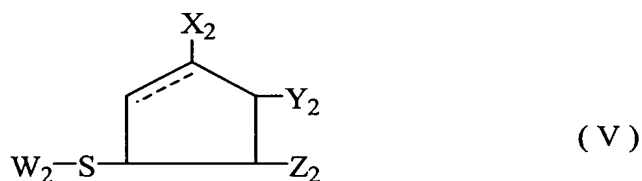
wherein R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> may be the same or different from each other, and are hydrogen, or an aliphatic, aromatic or aromatic aliphatic group;

a compound of formula (IV):



wherein  $R_3$  and  $R_4$  may be the same or different from each other, and are hydrogen, or an aliphatic, aromatic or aromatic aliphatic group, provided that  $R_3$  and  $R_4$  are not simultaneously H;

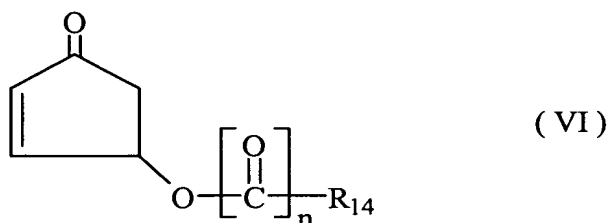
a compound of formula (V)



wherein a bond in the five-membered ring represented by a broken line means that the five-membered ring may be either a cyclopentene ring having a double bond or a saturated cyclopentane ring; in the case of a cyclopentene ring,  $X_2$  is  $OR_5$ ,  $Y_2$  is =O and  $Z_2$  is H; on the other hand, in the case of a cyclopentane ring,  $X_2$  is =O,  $Y_2$  is  $OR_6$  and  $Z_2$  is  $OR_7$ ;  $R_5$  is  $R_8$  or  $-(CO)-R_9$ ;  $R_6$  is H,  $R_{10}$  or  $-(CO)-R_{11}$ ; and  $R_8$  is H,  $R_{12}$  or  $-(CO)-R_{13}$  (wherein  $R_8$ ,  $R_9$ ,  $R_{10}$ ,  $R_{11}$ ,  $R_{12}$  and  $R_{13}$  may be the same or different from each other, and are an aliphatic, aromatic or

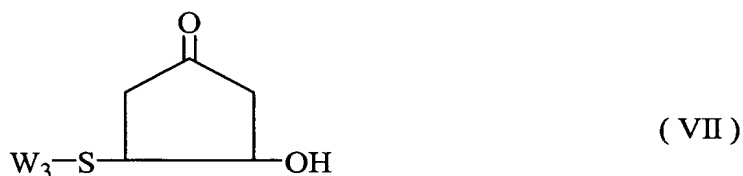
aromatic aliphatic group, and  $R_9$ ,  $R_{11}$  and  $R_{13}$  may be H),  
provided that  $R_6$  and  $R_7$  are not simultaneously H;  $W_2$  is a  
residue in which a SH group is removed from a cysteine or a  
peptide containing cysteine;

a compound of formula (VI):



wherein  $R_{14}$  is an aliphatic, aromatic or aromatic aliphatic  
group, and  $n$  is 0 or 1, provided that if  $n$  is 0,  $R_{14}$  is not H;

a compound of formula (VII):



wherein  $W_3$  is a residue in which a SH group is removed from  
cysteine or a peptide containing cysteine;

4-(9-adeninyl)-2-cyclopenten-1-one; and

4-(9-guaninyl)-2-cyclopenten-1-one,

to a person who is suffering from a condition selected from

the group consisting of ~~cirrhosis~~, cholestasis in liver,

~~chronic nephritis~~, wound, senile dementia, Alzheimer's

disease, peripheral neuropathy, a cerebrovascular disease,  
apex of brain, a degenerative disease resulting from head  
injury, anesthetic intoxication, growth impairment,  
amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, and osteoporosis, ~~and renal~~  
~~insufficiency,~~

wherein the amount of said active ingredient is  
above 10 µg/kg/day and less than 200 mg/kg/day.

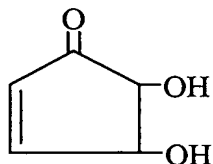
Claim 7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously presented) The method according to  
claim 6, wherein the composition is a food or a drink.

9. (currently amended) A method for enhancing  
production of growth factor selected from the group consisting  
of

hepatocyte growth factor, nerve growth factor,  
epidermal growth factor, milk-derived growth factor, and  
insulin-like growth factor, the method comprising

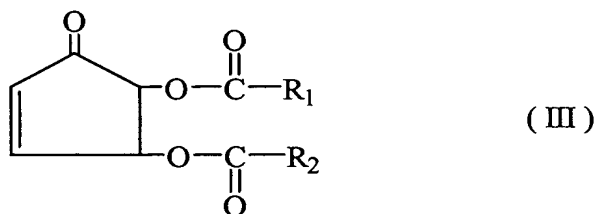
administering a composition containing, as an active  
ingredient, a compound selected from the group consisting of  
4,5-dihydroxy-2-cyclopenten-1-one of formula (I):



(I)

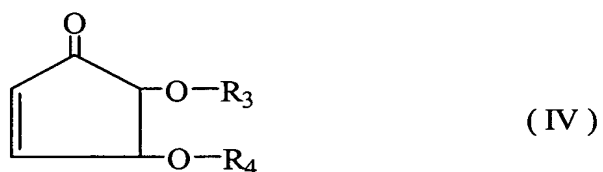
4-hydroxy-2-cyclopenten-1-one;

a compound of formula (III):



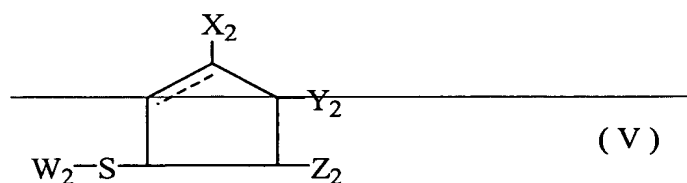
wherein  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  may be the same or different from each other, and are hydrogen, or an aliphatic, aromatic or aromatic aliphatic group;

a compound of formula (IV):



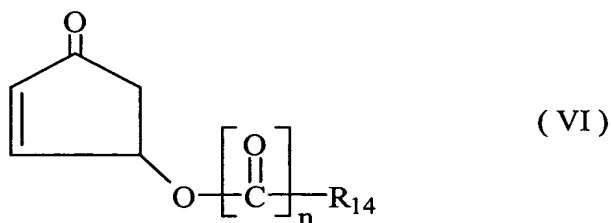
wherein  $R_3$  and  $R_4$  may be the same or different from each other, and are hydrogen, or an aliphatic, aromatic or aromatic aliphatic group, provided that  $R_3$  and  $R_4$  are not simultaneously H;

~~a compound of formula (V):~~



~~wherein a bond in the five membered ring represented by a broken line means that the five membered ring may be either a cyclopentene ring having a double bond or a saturated cyclopentane ring; in the case of a cyclopentene ring,  $X_2$  is  $OR_5$ ,  $Y_2$  is  $=O$  and  $Z_2$  is H; on the other hand, in the case of a cyclopentane ring,  $X_2$  is  $=O$ ,  $Y_2$  is  $OR_6$  and  $Z_2$  is  $OR_7$ ;  $R_5$  is  $R_8$  or  $-(CO)-R_9$ ,  $R_6$  is H,  $R_{10}$  or  $-(CO)-R_{11}$ , and  $R_8$  is H,  $R_{12}$  or  $-(CO)-R_{13}$  (wherein  $R_8$ ,  $R_9$ ,  $R_{10}$ ,  $R_{11}$ ,  $R_{12}$  and  $R_{13}$  may be the same or different from each other, and are an aliphatic, aromatic or aromatic aliphatic group, and  $R_9$ ,  $R_{11}$  and  $R_{13}$  may be H), provided that  $R_6$  and  $R_7$  are not simultaneously H;  $W_2$  is a residue in which a SH group is removed from a cysteine or a peptide containing cysteine;~~

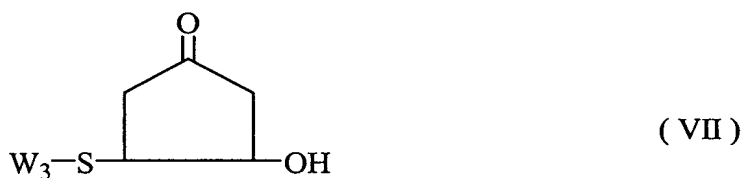
a compound of formula (VI):



wherein  $R_{14}$  is an aliphatic, aromatic or aromatic aliphatic group, and  $n$  is 0 or 1, provided that if  $n$  is 0,  $R_{14}$  is not H;

wherein  $R_{14}$  is an aliphatic, aromatic or aromatic aliphatic group, and  $n$  is 0 or 1, provided that if  $n$  is 0,  $R_{14}$  is not H;

a compound of formula (VII):



wherein  $W_3$  is a residue in which a SH group is removed from cysteine or a peptide containing cysteine;

4-(9-adeninyl)-2-cyclopenten-1-one; and

4-(9-guaninyl)-2-cyclopenten-1-one,

to a person who is suffering from hepatitis, cirrhosis,  
chronic nephritis or renal insufficiency,

wherein the amount of said active ingredient is above 10  $\mu\text{g/kg/day}$  and less than 200  $\text{mg/kg/day}$ .

10. (previously presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein the composition is a food or a drink.